

Higher Education Challenges and Opportunities in the CAREC Region



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The Higher Education System in Central Asia

- Pre Independence
 - HE System established in Soviet Union Times
 - Responding to the requirements of a Planned Economy
 - Integral linkage with Industry
 - Strong role of Academies of Sciences
 - Research – Teaching not integrated
- Independence Challenges
 - Severe Economic downturn
 - Expert relocation
 - Dynamic political situation
 - Social – Economic development tensions



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- Pre Independence
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 - 11 years of Schooling
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Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan 2012 Status Analysis

- Education process lacks a competence-based approach with state educational standards having been developed without involving professional groups that know the content of the profession,
- No external procedure for assessing the competence of graduating students,
- Problems in assessing the performance of higher education institutions - licensing and attestation of educational institutions
- Faculty qualification gap



Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan 2012 Status Analysis

- No independent accreditation agencies in the country,
- Self-governance bodies of higher educational institutions - Academic Councils, Boards of Trustees, disciplinary and financial committees - are ineffective,
- No suitable system for training education managers,
- Problems with corruption in education system,
- Serious problems related to the employment of graduates
- Government Funding focused on teacher training
- Around \$500 per capita per year university support



General Learning Habits Inherited from School

- Prevalence of teacher-centred instructional practices
- Absence of acquisition and development of critical thinking skills
- Learning through memorization and repetition (rote learning)
- Lack of inquisitiveness and real-life application of learning and knowledge
- Development of static set of skills applicable to a particular situation, subject or topic as opposed to skills with universal and wider applicability
- Eleven years of primary and secondary school education system not compatible with international standards



Pakistan: 2002 Situational Analysis

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Pakistan: 2002 Situational Analysis

- PhD output < 300 per year
- No research or travel grants
- Empty Laboratories
- Higher Education in Big Cities





Response to Challenges

Core

**Faculty
Development**

**Improving
Access &
Learning**

**Excellence in
Research**

**Relevance to
National
Priorities**

Support

Quality Assurance: Standards, Assessment, Accreditation

Good Governance & Management

Infrastructure Development: Physical, Technology



Reform Fundamentals

Academics understand university management best

- Building HEC Capacity
- Merit & Transparency

Faculty is the heart and soul of a university

- Faculty development scholarships

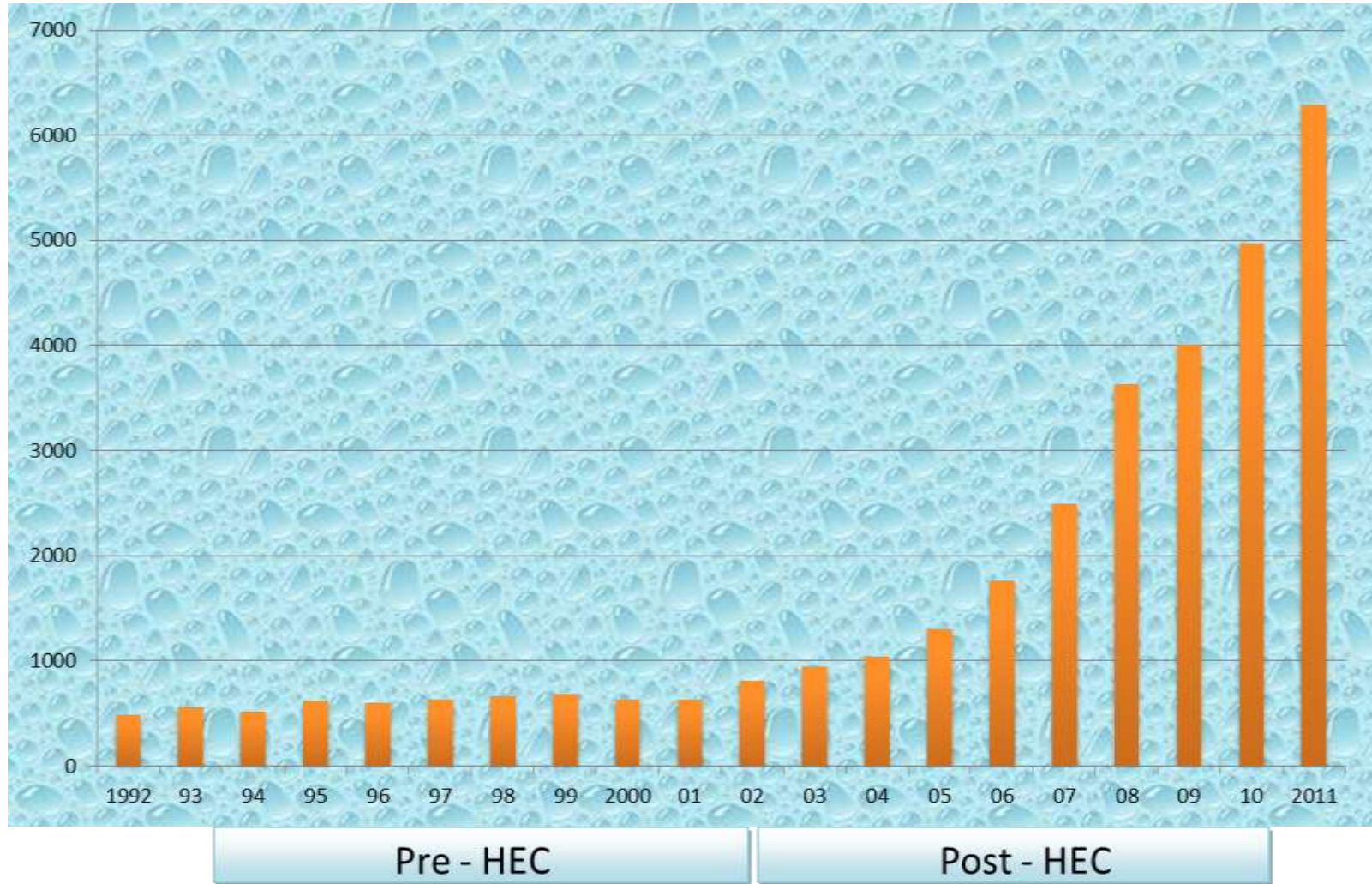
Quality is International

- Gradual Implementation

Creation of new knowledge is a core university function

- Science & Engineering focus
- International Standards

Pakistan: Reform Impact





Kyrgyzstan: University of Central Asia

- UCA mission is to promote the socio-economic development of Central Asia, particularly, the mountainous regions
- Catalyst for Regional Growth
- Development University
- UCA “an outstanding teaching institution that excels in the generation and application of knowledge”
- Combining the student-centred environment of a liberal arts college with the intellectual excitement of a research university



Schools of the University of Central Asia

- School of Arts & Sciences
 - Preparatory Year Development of critical thinking, mathematics, scientific and study skills
 - A new research-based custom-built program for the Central Asia region
- Graduate School of Development
 - Research Institutes
 - Graduate (Executive & Certificate) Programs
- School of Professional & Continuing Education



Executive Masters in Economic Policy

- Demand for graduate programme in economic policy in Central Asia
- Curriculum adjusted to the needs of the region
- 60 ECTS Executive Masters in Economic Policy programme
- Two 12-months cycles in 2018-2019 (completed)
- Implemented for the officials of the MoF Afghanistan and other government agencies





Thank you